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16

PRECOGNITIVE REMOTE VIEWING IN THE CHICAGO AREA: A REPLICATION OF THE STANFORD EXPERIMENT

By Brenda J. Dunne and John P. Bisaha

ABSTRACT: The ability of untrained individuals to describe a remote geographical site where an agent will be at a future time, before the target location has been site where an agent win be at a ruture time, before the target location has been determined, was investigated in eight separate trials using two volunteer printing ients who had no claim to extraordinary psychic abilities. The transcripts of descriptions were matched and ranked against the various target locations by ending the control of the contro independent judges who had no other connection with the experiment. The results of this matching indicated a degree of accuracy at the p < .008 (one-tailed) signifi-

The ability of individuals to describe remote geographical locations up to several thousand kilometers distant from their physical presence was labeled "remote viewing" by Puthoff and Targ (1976a) at Stanford Research Institute. In these experiments the percipient was closeted with an experimenter at SRI and, at an agreed-upon time, attempted to describe the site which was then being visited by a target team of experimenters known to the percipient. The target sites were chosen randomly from a pool of over 100 targets within a 30-minute driving distance and were unknown to either the percipient or the experimenters who remained with him. After allowing 30 minutes for travel time, the percipient was asked to attempt to scribe aloud into a tape recorder his impressions of the locate where he thought the recorder his impressions of the locate where where he thought the target team was and to draw a sketch of the location he was describing. The "demarcation" team remained at the target site for 15 minutes, the same 15-minute period during which the percipient was recording his impressions.

In the course of experimentation, one participant claimed to have received impressions of the targets before the trials began, and her descriptions turned out to be exceptionally accurate, even though the target locations had not been selected at the time these impressions were received. These spontaneous occurrences moti-

This paper is based on a preliminary report given on August 21, 1976, at the nineteenth annual convention of the Parapsychological Association which was held at

match the percipient's descriptions with the target sites. the success of these trials was to have three independent judges blind performed with one experienced subject. The method used to verify experimenter was to arrive at the target. Four trials of this kind were mote target during a 15-minute period commencing 20 minutes betocol. The new protocol required the percipient to describe the retive aspects of remote viewing by altering their experimental profore the target was selected and 35 minutes before the outbound vated Puthoff and Targ (1976b) to investigate further the precogni-

trials (Bisaha & Dunne, 1977). scription apiece against the eight potential targets. This revision proof independence in judging existed under those circumstances (Solfvin, Kelly, & Burdick, 1978), and the judging procedure was modvided for the assurance that the rankings for each trial would be analyzed by the same method of judging utilized by Puthoff and inexperienced percipients. The results of these trials were originally SRI, with the exception that eight trials were performed with two cation of the precognitive remote-viewing experiment conducted at ference in statistical results as given in the earlier report of these independent of the other seven rankings and accounts for the difified accordingly by having eight separate judges rank only one de Targ (Bisaha & Dunne, 1977). However, the possibility of a violation during a period of one month in the spring of 1976. It was a repli-The experiment described in the present paper was carried out

МЕТНОВ

titude toward the phenomenon under investigation. One of them this division being made strictly by the availability of the participants. performed two trials; the other performed six, the determination for percipients, the only prerequisite being that they hold a positive at-J. Bisaha (E_1) served as coordinator and observer in the laboratory. The agent in all eight trials was B. Dunne, designated here as ${f E_2}$. Two inexperienced female volunteers were selected to be the

Apparatu:

area; these were then compared and compiled into a target pool of ment were asked to submit lists of various locations in the Chicago over 100 locations by a sixth individual, who was the only person Five other individuals who had no association with the experi-

Precognitive Remote Viewing: A Replication

of a tape recorder, pencil (for percipients' and agents' use if gey desired to draw sketches of their impressions), and a camera (for the use of the outbound experimenter, or agent, enabling her to age velopes, and kept in a locked file cabinet. Other equipment consisted experiment. The targets were printed on index cards, sealed in 2nfamiliar with all the targets and who had no other involvement in the

tape recorder the images which came to mind during the 15-minute trial period. It was suggested that they also try to make sketches these images, if possible. (Only two such sketches were obtained from one of the percipients; the other drew one sketch, but did not feel comfortable drawing, so the issue was not pressed.) The percipients were further advised to try not to define or identify what they saw with specificity, but to stick to general impressions, even these appeared to make no sense or have no continuity. They were allowed as much time as they felt they needed to relax and prepared. photographs of the target sites at the time of her visit and from the perspective of her observations of the site).

Procedure

The percipients were individually tested. Before the experiment and began, they were informed of the nature of the experiment and experimental protocol. The agent took the time to talk casually with themselves before each trial. and let their minds become as blank as possible. They were then told to try to imagine or visualize the location where the agent would be 35 to 50 minutes after the trial began and to describe aloud into the each percipient in an informal, friendly atmosphere, attempting establish a comfortable rapport. At the time of the trials the percipients were instructed by E₁ to make themselves comfortable, to refer

elicit more explicit description, one percipient indicated that she had difficulty relaxing or talking out loud with another person presenge was up.

Once the time schedule was arread man for the allotted time. She was left alone in a closed room with the observer, E, nearbo Although it was preferable to have an observer closeted with the percipient, keeping track of time and asking questions which would

envelopes which had been selected blindly by E1 from the target pool. Kept locked in a cabinet by E₁, the contents of the envelopes began recording her description. The agent had in her possession 10 ple protocol) the agent left Mundelein College and the percipient Once the time schedule was agreed upon (see Table 1 for a sam-

SAMPLE EXPERIMENTAL PROTOCOL

10:00 The agent (E₂) leaves with 10 envelopes containing target locations and begins

The observer (E_1) , remaining with subject, elicits description of location where the agent (E_2) will be between 10:35 and 10:50.

10:15Percipient response completed, at which time laboratory part of experiment is

10:20

10:35Outbound E2 generates random number between 1 and 10, counts down to Outbound E2 arrives at target location and remains there for 15 minutes, until associated envelope, opens it, and proceeds to target location indicated

E2 returns to laboratory. Experimental trial completed

10:50

generated sets of photographs and accompanying notes which had subject might have made. When the eight trials were completed the contents of the subjects' descriptions. been prepared by the agent before she had any information about there were eight percipient-generated transcripts, and eight agentdescription and was attached to any associated drawings which the typed, unedited transcript was made of the subject's tape-recorded judges' comparisons and rankings. When each trial was completed, a site. These photographs and notes were used later as the basis of the graphed the location, and made notes as to her impressions of the completed. She remained at the target site for 15 minutes, photoarriving at the designated site 35 minutes after the percipient had and proceeded to the destination indicated on the enclosed card, begun her description and 20 minutes after the description had been velope corresponding to the drawn number, opened the envelope, bered and identically folded sheets of paper. She selected the ennumber from 1 to 10 from an enclosed container holding 10 numthe future target. After 20 minutes the agent blindly selected a the percipient had completed her part of the trial, the description of no set direction or goal for 20 minutes, or until five minutes after were unknown to either E1 or E2. The agent drove continuously with

correct target. The number of photographs for each target varied photographs with accompanying agent's notes, one of which was the description to read and was then presented with a set of eight act as judges. Each judge was given one transcript of a percipient's persons, not otherwise connected with the experiment, were asked to After the eight experimental trials had been carried out, eight

Precognitive Remote Viewing: A Replication

Table 2

RANKS ASSIGNED BY JUDGES IN PRECOGNITIVE REMOTE-VIEWING

TRIALS

($P_1 = Percipient \#1; P_2 = Percipient \#2$)

- Opening in Control	Statistical Significance	Sum of Ranks	Angel Cuardian O-L	Ivanhoe Restaurant (D)	Elks Headquarters and Memorial (P.)	Lincoln Park Conservatory (P1)	Marina Towers (P ₁)	Playboy Building (P ₁)	Adler Planetarium (P ₂) ^a	Windmill Cemetery (P ₁)	Target	
p < .008 (one-tailed)	20	 	° RD	۰ ۲	96	-0	.∝ 07	87	_ ·	-	Rank Assigned 2	

depending on the agent's judgment of the complexity and size of target as well as her own observational perspective at the time of the trial. The judges were given these photographs transfer and size of the trial. trial. The judges were given these photographs taped to a sheet@f

paper with the name of the target and the agent's descriptive notes typed below the photographs. The judge was requested to rape order the photographs on a scale of 1 to 8; 1 being the target where best matched the transcript, and 8 being the worst.

RESULTS

The statistical analysis of these experimental trials was based the rankings given by the eight judges, in accordance with Solfvie ranking data. The sum of ranks assigned by the judges was 20 (see Table 2), a figure significant at h < 0.008 (one railed). The statistical properties of the second statistical properties assigned by the judges was 20 (see Table 2), a figure significant at h < 0.008 (one railed). 3, 5, and 6. eight transcripts were ranked as 1, and the other four ranks were 2, Table 2), a figure significant at p < .008 (one-tailed). Four of the

trained for the task of assessing material of this type, a factor which The judges who evaluated the transcripts were not specifically

21

The Journal of Parapsychology

to match them significantly with the appropriate targets. the untrained judges still saw enough information in the transcripts could have possibly had a negative effect on the results. However,

the transcripts they felt best matched the locations they had just basis of the judges' opinions, after judging, as to which elements of scripts are given here. The excerpts presented were chosen on the the judges. For reasons of space, only select portions of the trancurate than others, a fact which is reflected in the ranks assigned by tions. As must be expected, some of the descriptions were more acdegree of accuracy which was reached in the percipients' descrip-A short description of each trial will provide some idea of the

Trial 1 (ranked as 1)

big building or a big something.... Maybe it's windows." and down movements.... A design of the horizontal and vertical impression of being out in the open.... A sensation of swing, up both vertical and horizontal lines. . . . Some shiny things. . . . The small lake. The percipient saw a "contrast of black and white.... lines, but in squares. . . . A big thing that it's on, I don't know, like a no headstones or monuments; just lawn, trees, shrubbery, and a mounted on a nearby building. The cemetery itself was like a park, with square white windows and white blades of latticed, rectangular The white shape was triangular, suspended on something.... Has pattern. There were two shiny spotlights in front of the windmill, The primary feature of the target was a large windmill, dark brown The target was the Windmill Cemetery in Franklin Park, Illinois.

Trial 2 (ranked as 1)

lowing is what the percipient reported over the telephone: script, together with a drawing made at the time of the original tape cipient's tape recording for this trial was inaudible. Since she had left tree-lined mall lying between the statue and the building. The perrecording, that was presented to the judges for matching. The folthe percipient and had her repeat her impressions. It was this tranthe building and the agent was still at the target site, E, telephoned nicus on a base of light-colored marble blocks, and a landscaped, tures were the large domed building itself, a seated statue of Coper-The target was the Adler Planetarium. The predominant fea-

sensation of sunlight flashing through trees, as if of movement; it and parallel lines which began to look like a tunnel. There was a She had a sensation of motion. The next image was of vertical

> solid stones set into some kind of a thing. She said it might be a stop floor, she wasn't exactly sure. It was some kind of a hard stone, concrete, marble, some light-colored stone. She did mention having the image of seeing the experimenter's hair blowing in the wind. The was all she could recall. was like a dome. Then parallel lines again which looked like a path or road going into the distance. Again, parallel lines like a path, but this time it seemed to be like little hills, like landscaping, she said, off to the side. The dome again. The next impression was of what be to the side. culty in defining that particular part of it, drew a sketch. Her find impression was of a pattern which seemed to be made of stones, it. to have something solid on either side; she wasn't sure if they were actually arches, but they were of that general shape. She had design peared to be open arches which seemed to be to the left. It appeaß would flash and disappear. She had an image of a half-circle which

A sketch which the percipient drew bore a striking resemblance to the features of the dome and statue pedestal, very similar to the photograph taken by the agent at the time of the trial.

Trial 3 (ranked as 3)

The Playboy Building, a large office building in the heart Chicago, was the target. The front part of the building (the lower part) was mostly glass windows divided vertically by dark columinated and horizontally by dark square panels. There was a dark-colored rectangular marquee over the entranceway. The panels and columinated divide the front of the building into gastient and columinated divide the front of the building into gastient and columinated divide the front of the building into gastient and columinated divide the front of the building into gastient and columinated divide the front of the building into gastient divide divide the front of the building in the heart Quantum columnated divide the part of the building in the heart Quantum columnated divide the part of the building in the heart Quantum columnated divide the panels and columnated divide the front of the building in the heart Quantum columnated divide the panels and columnated divide the front of the building in the heart Quantum columnated divide the panels and columnated divide the front of the building in the buil

Trial 4 (ranked as 2)

buildings resemble spirals and are used for parking. There is a large sections by vertical supporting pillars. The bottom parts of the "rings" around the buildings; they are separated from the bottom sections consist of rows of semi-circular balconies forming a series of sembling corncobs, each divided into two main sections. The top ery. There are two tall circular buildings, often described as re tion is an excellent example of the nature of remote-viewing imagence. Marina Towers was the target. The location is a distinctive one though somewhat difficult to describe, and the percipient's description is an excellent example of the nature of

25

dark and light contrasts." on a slant. . . . Impressions of circles. . . . Not much color. . . . Mostly from a corner or something. I get the impression of the whole thing cars parked on the bottom. I'm looking at the area on an angle, like the lower field. . . . Also the impression of levels. . . . There might be bottom.... A sense of division.... There are curves that run along they're mainly from the lower part. . . . Sort of are sticking out of the Vertical lines now, but not nearly as many as the horizontal and described "horizontal lines. Just going across the whole field.... theatre shaped in a curved design off to one side. The percipient

Trial 5 (ranked as 1)

Could ... be some sort of park." of openness. A big, wide expanse. . . . There may be a stone wall. . . . course.... A lot of grass around, very green. Trees too.... A sense grass.... Something like a sand trap or something in a golf time of the trial, large bare flower beds on the lawn. This is the stone bridge which extends to a stone wall on either side, and, at the open space, a park, with a circular fountain, several large trees, a percipient's description: "A small pond.... In the middle of The target was the Lincoln Park Conservatory. This is a large

Trial 6 (ranked as 5)

and Memorial as the target it was treated as though it had been the statue nearby which could not be located at the time of the trial. of some kind. Grays and gray colors or beiges. . . . Dark metal, steel script reads: "There seems to be a lot of concrete or asphalt or stone by white pillars. There was a large black metal doorway. The transteps led to the Memorial, which was made of white stone and had square buildings, each housing black metal statues. A large flight of selected target was a large circular building flanked by two smaller was made at the time of the trial and before the agent had any indesignated one, and the designated target, the statue, was dropped Once the decision was made to use the Elks National Headquarters an unusual structure in the vicinity. (The designated target was a poles—like pillars or something." maybe.... Could be steps.... Round and square shapes. Maybe three distinct layers, the middle section of which was circumscribed formation about the description generated by the percipient.) The from any further consideration. It should be noted that this decision in this trial was not the one designated in the selected envelope, but Although the agent was in the correct location, the actual target

Trial 7 (ranked as 6)

located at the corner of a busy intersection. A large building with several sections with Tudor-style trim and a rounded brick turest on the corner from which protruded a flag pole with a rigid permant-shaped sign. Looking down the street along the side of the building was a row of arched street lights. The transcript described "a set of movement nearby, cars, a lot of traffic.... Some kind of a little eaf-like thing.... Arches one over the other.... Rectangles.... A goad ... going off away from me.... I see a kind of corner.... A reand-ness... a curving kind of side like a bowl. A wavy effect, kind of leaf-like effect."

Trial 8 (ranked as 1) The target was the Ivanhoe Restaurant, an old English-sty

Trial 8 (ranked as 1)

colors, small groups of colors. Lots of reds and yellows, gigns, pinks. Probably flowers. They look like they're all bunches together.... On display.... There's some kind of a building.... Windows, poles, glass.... Concrete around that she's walking on.... A couple of raised round things.... A sensation of blugg' The final target was a florist shop, the Angel Guardian Organanage Florist. The shop was a square-shaped building with a pointed roof, distinguished by four blue manifest. accurate in terms of detail of the eight. The percipient saw "a lot of colorful flowers and plants. This description was probably the onst an almost solid glass front. Behind the glass was a large display of roof, distinguished by four blue mosaic tile-covered columns batore

sidered "psychic" subject to give significant descriptive information regarding an unknown location which is spatially and temporally DISCUSSION

The most significant finding evidenced by these experiment trials is that it appears possible for an untrained, not previously conthe hypothesis that the remote-viewing design might well be a dethis area by the present authors (Dunne & Bisaha, 1978), supports be added to Puthoff and Targ's (1976a) findings that the quality of remote-viewing descriptions is not influenced by the amount of dissource of ordinary communication is possible. This information hay remote from the percipient's physical presence when no appearent pendable vehicle for further research in which variables such as ful replication of their experiment, as well as other experiments in the accuracy or quality of remote-viewing descriptions. This successtance involved and that electrical shielding does not interfere Shith

vital issues in the field of parapsychology can be more fully ditions, the relationship between percipient and agent, and other through training and experience and enhanced environmental contime, the role of the agent, the improvement of subject performance

could easily be tested. not be a determining factor in their remote-viewing performance. By varying the time element in future experiments, this implication indicate that the specific time assignment given to participants may ranked as 1 by the judge who evaluated this transcript. This seems to timing, the percipient's description was still accurate enough to be 90 minutes after the start of the trial. In spite of this variation in the the experiment began, the experimenter arrived 55 minutes later, or ing at the target, which was the Windmill Cemetery, 35 minutes after farther away than the prescribed 30-minute drive. Instead of arrivson who prepared the target pool, the target turned out to be much the experimental protocol was prevented by unusual circumstances. by two instances in the present experiment when exact adherence to In Trial 1, because of an error in calculation on the part of the per-Some ideas for future research along these lines were suggested

p < .012, one-tailed). Statistical analysis of the results of this experiment even without of the contents of the envelope or by possible PK influence of the these two trials is still significant (sum of ranks = 14 in 6 trials, with random number selection determining the appropriate envelope. the agent's attentional direction than by some clairvoyant knowledge be possible that the percipient's description was more influenced by tion was still closer to the chosen target than it would have been to ters. Although the judge ranked the description as a 5, the descripon a nearby structure in the vicinity, the Elks Memorial Headquartarget although she was in the correct area, and instead concentrated the designated one, a bronze statue. In this instance, at least, it could In Trial 6, the experimenter was unable to locate the designated

icism have been leveled at some of the other remote-viewing ex-Since this experiment was completed, three major forms of crit-

Approved For Release 2001/03/26: CIA-RDP96-00787R000200080023-9 resulting in a greater probability of success in the end trials than tion. The probability of success, of course, will vary trial by trial, match up with the target site of the past trial in a closed-deck situafeedback after each trial, they may avoid making responses that 1. Diaconis (1978) points out that in cases when the subjects have

would be expected if there were no feedback. This criticism is not valid for the present experiment since, even though the subject had feedback after each trial, it was not a closed-deck situation because the target for each trial was randomly chosen from a fresh pol of

ient transcripts with targets (Burdick & Kelly, 1977). Again criticism is inapplicable since no one judge attempted to rank only for those cases when it can be safely assumed that judged is independently done for each trial. An assumption of independence cannot be safely assumed when the same judge matches all percipthan one percipient's transcripts against the eight target locations 2. Some of the previous analyses of the remote-viewing results used a statistic recommended by Morris (1972) which is appropriate only for those cases when it can be offered.

transcripts is so relevant to the target that it is unlikely that extraneous factors influenced judging. on each day. In addition, the information provided in a number of same month, and, serendipitously, with similar weather conditions the trials were conducted around the same time of day, within the sible sensory cues as to the day, time, change in weather, etc. And subject's description and the photograph provided the judge. This could cause an artifactual correct match. In this experiment, the the identity of previous targets. None were discovered. In addition transcripts and photographs were examined before judging for sos-3. Stokes (1978, p. 73) pointed out the possibility of sensory ging where, for example, "weather might be incorporated into both the

success even before the trials were completed. In both cases the ported a definite feeling of being "tuned in" and felt confident of Conservatory and the Angel Guardian Orphanage Florist) she reachieved by relaxing physically, breathing deeply, and visualizing herself descending a spiral staircase. It might be of interest to note fore the trial putting herself into a mild altered state which in trials) said that she found it helpful to spend about ten minutes Befinished by a certain time because of an anticipated appointment). One of the percipients (the one who performed six of the eight In the course of this experiment unsystematic attempts were made to identify factors which may have contributed to the success of these two percipients in precognitive remote viewing. Bother that in the two trials which she thought were the best (Lincoln Park gations (such as having an exam the next day or needing to be ported that they felt they performed best when physically and non-training relaxed and unpressured by time constraints or personal obli-

judges concurred; both of these descriptions were ranked as 1.

lights receding into the distance could possibly have triggered such sprays of water at the target site; however, a row of arched street described "sprays of water shooting up and falling down, leaning in and Targ's theory (1976b). For example, in Trial 7 the percipient color, or size, or in relationship to other shapes, confirming Puthoff nature, with scenes more likely to be perceived in terms of shape, during descriptive activity tended to be more holistic than linear in nance during the psi process. The percipients' perceptual mode like a circle—like making arches one over the other." There were no details, confirms other evidence of right cerebral hemispheric domimore accurate when relating holistic impressions rather than specific cognitive remote viewing. The facts that nonlinguistic, or nonintelformances and that the imagery described tended, in general, to be lectual, mental activity appeared to be an asset to participants' perhand seems to be an accompaniment of good performance in precompanied by a feeling of being "tuned in" to the experience at positive state of mind or a mild altered state of consciousness ac-On the basis of these trials we can suggest that a relaxed and

of the site might be very similar to a castle-like structure. It might be bridge or turrets when none existed, although the overall impression be tempted to include in his description such features as a drawmight perceive a shape which reminded him of an old castle might tinguish the major or critical elements in the transcripts they are sults of such an analysis would be useful for training judges to disjudging from the extraneous detail. For example, a percipient who about these impressions and thus biasing their descriptions. The reguishing them from the logical inferences percipients may make more exactly the nature of the impressions received and distincognitive remote-viewing transcripts in the hope of determining terms if possible. In the near future the authors anticipate perurged to refrain from definition and to stick to purely descriptive is to avoid just this type of biasing influence that percipients are to a golf course for the judge to be able to identify it successfully. It to see on a golf course. Fortunately the location was similar enough description was inclined to be descriptive of what one would expect forming a systematic analysis on the contents of these and other pretrap on a golf course; and from that point on the remainder of her rather than specifically accurate. One percipient described a sand There is some tendency for descriptions to be metaphorical,

Precognitive Remote Viewing: A Replication

specific aspects based on an order of transmissibility, thereby enabling us to learn more about the nature of the information cansfer between transcript and target and geared more toward natching the judge's subjective determination concerning the relationship possible to develop a judging procedure which is less dependent or

lieve that such an environment is a vital part of our proceduce and should be taken into consideration in any attempts at future replicajoin in creating a belief system in which psi phenomena are respectively. Although we have not tested this empirically as yet, ee beniality, playfulness, and relaxation in which percipients and gent initial rapport established between percipients and agent arcorucial factors in remote-viewing success. In all the experiments Repaired have It is the authors' belief that the attitudinal environment and the

tion channels lying beyond the senses as they are currently defined, and offers itself as a viable vehicle for future research in pagepsychology evidence substantiating the existence of perceptual and commencathat remote viewing as an experimental design provides additional this paper represents a replication of an earlier experiment suggests adequately the phenomenon being investigated here, the fact that ns. Although our present knowledge does not enable us to Aplain

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